

INFORMATION REPORT CD NO.

COUNTRY Korea
SUBJECT Rumored Execution of North Korean Officials

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1. Sometime in September 1950, the North Korean cabinet held an emergency meeting to determine what action should be taken in regard to the UN General Assembly demand that all northern troops be withdrawn from South Korea. Most of the cabinet, led by KIM Il-song, favored continuing the fight against the UN forces.
2. A small group opposed this, however; they were led by KIM Tu-pong (金武奉), chairman of the North Korean Supreme People's Council; CH'OE Yong-kon (崔庸健), Minister of National Defense;* and HONG Myong-hi (洪命夏), vice premier. Their argument was that opposition might lead to the destruction of the North Korean state and that some measures should be taken to re-establish world relations and end the fighting.
3. KIM Il-song became angered at CH'OE, who led the opposition most heatedly, and attempted to shoot him. KIM Tu-pong stepped in between, and the conference was broken up. A few days later, KIM had CH'OE, HONG, AND KIM Tu-pong secretly arrested and imprisoned. It was rumored in Pyongyang that they had been executed.**
4. KIM Il-song's wife, who is the daughter of HONG Myong-hi, was not informed of the arrest of her father. About the same time as the arrest, she began urging KIM to put an end to the Korean war if he could, and KIM became enraged and shot her.

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* Comment. CH'OE and KIM Tu-pong, as members of the Yanan faction in the North Korean government, have long been opposed to the Soviet faction, which is headed by KIM Il-song.

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Comment. A violent argument between KIM Il-song and CH'OE was reported in 1947, with shooting involved.

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** Comment. [redacted] reported that CH'OE in January 1952 was commanding general of the North Korean forces being reorganized in Manchuria. No recent reports are available on the other persons reported executed.

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